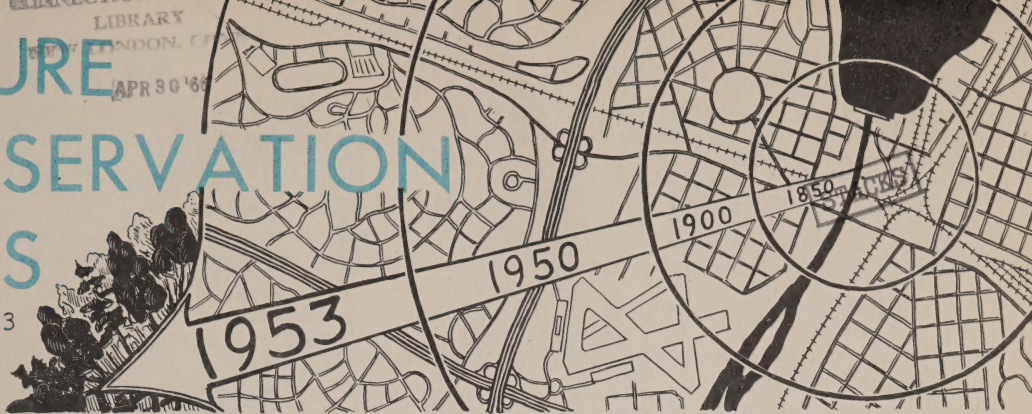


NATURE CONSERVATION NEWS

Vol. 3 - No. 3

May 1953



IT APPLIES TO US TOO!

"IF THERE is one problem which seems to be of more vital concern than any other to our Humane Societies, large or small, it is the question of how to raise money. While we all recognize the fact that money is needed to operate a humane organization, it is also true and should be emphasized that it is not money which brings success, but success which produces money and that you can succeed if you are willing to pay the price. The price is devotion, persistence, concentration and hard work.

"When one has a conviction that a certain good work must be done, it can be done. This is the history of the world's progress from the beginning. This is the reason why good works have prospered and increased. Personal devotion has built and endowed museums, churches, universities, orphan asylums, libraries and other kindred institutions, some of which were born in poverty but are now receiving public support and are an indispensable part of our American way of life. It is the earnest propaganda and cry for good which will not be refused. Only because of the warmth, conviction, persistence and zeal of those who founded such institutions have they grown, multiplied and flourished. The public support which they are receiving year after year is evidence of faith in the work being done and a willingness to contribute dollars that can be translated into a community service."

--Florence N. Maher in Nat'l. Humane Review, January 1950.

'POPULATION AND PRESERVATION' SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED

"How can we preserve the natural world and its spiritual, esthetic, emotional and material values in the face of increasing human population and economic development?"

"How can we direct the development of our civilization to recognize and preserve the irreplaceable values of nature?"

"What is the optimum balance between population density or intensity of land use on the one hand, and the preservation of natural beauty on the other?"

"What effect will the continuation of population increase have on our cultural life in the future?"

To promote the study of such fundamentally important questions as these, the Nature Conservancy is offering a \$500 scholarship to candidates for the doctorate.

To be eligible, the student must have as the subject for his thesis some aspect of the Relation of Human Population to Nature Conservation. There is a wide variety of subjects within this field. Those concentrating in conservation, wildlife management, biology, demographic studies, sociology, history, city planning, or related fields will each approach the problem from a different angle, yet each should find much that is directly relevant to this problem.

A student who wishes to apply should prepare an outline of his proposed thesis. Application and outline should reach the Nature Conservancy before July 1, 1953. Prospective applicants should write and request a copy of the scholarship announcement, which gives further details.

This award is sponsored by the Conservancy's Committee on Population Problems. It is made possible through the generosity of Dr. Conrad Chapman of Boston, Massachusetts, Chairman of the Committee. By undertaking this task, the Conservancy seeks to direct attention to the need for further study of this problem --one of the greatest challenges our civilization has to meet.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

MEMBERSHIP has almost doubled during the last few months as a result of recent campaigns carried on by state groups and the central office. Total membership now exceeds 1,000, only a drop in the bucket compared with the need, but a mighty powerful nucleus on which to build, and a sizable group compared with many others.

NEW COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES will be started in the near future. A recent request to members for help with committee work has brought excellent response.

STATE ACTIVITIES have continued to expand. An Oregon division of the Conservancy was established on Feb. 7. Several other state groups have held or are planning meetings. Basic surveys are in various stages of development in a number of states.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT has more than doubled that of last year. Dues and contributions for general purposes totalled about \$3,200 during the first half of our present fiscal year. In addition, about \$61,000 has been contributed to the Conservancy during this period for special projects, including the acquisition of Sunken Forest on Long Island and Troy Meadows on the upper Passaic River in New Jersey. (Details of the latter will appear in a future issue of N.C.N.)

ANNUAL MEETING of the Conservancy will be in Madison, Wisconsin, on Sept. 8. See next issue of N.C.N. for detailed announcement.

Another Wilderness Area Bows

ON A memorable occasion a year and a half ago, the governors of Kentucky and Virginia, voicing a number of high-sounding and perhaps well-meaning intentions, met before a cheering crowd assembled on the boundary between their respective states at the Breaks of the Big Sandy. The meeting commemorated the completion of a new, improved road making readily available for the first time a remarkable scenic wonder—one of the few remaining beautiful natural areas left in the region and which was to be made into a permanent mecca for enjoyment and contemplation of its spectacular chasm and its lovely surrounding hills.

The speeches were delivered from an impressive stand nestling among garishly decorated booths, all built for the purpose. The crowd milled about, eating hot dogs and doughnuts, drinking pop. Today, the abandoned stands are still there. So are the pop bottles and much other litter.

Before this road, which goes nowhere in particular except to "The Breaks," was built, "The Breaks" was accessible only by a tortuous, breath-taking, and even hazardous road, little more than a trail. It was a safe bet that nearly everyone who made that trip really wanted to get there and really appreciated it when they did.

Today the lookout points and picnic areas at the summit are attainable from nearby towns in a matter of a few minutes. Thousands make the trip weekly where few did so before. But there is a vast difference in those making the journey.

NEWS FLASHES

THE THIRD BIENNIAL WILDERNESS CONFERENCE, sponsored by the Sierra Club, is being held May 15 and 16 at the Hotel Claremont in Berkeley, California. Main topics of discussion are as follows:

- (a) How we can maintain and strengthen the idea of wilderness protection.
- (b) How we can improve the protection of wilderness areas we have now.
- (c) How we can grasp the opportunity that now exists to give formal protection to some of the wilderness of arctic Alaska.

"CONSERVATION IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT" is the subject of an all-day conference being sponsored by the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences on May 16. It is to be held in the Staten Island Museum, 75 Stuyvesant Place.

REGIONAL NOTES

CALIFORNIA: The sugar pine portion of the Calaveras region in Tuolumne County will be saved as a result of a land exchange agreement recently entered into by the U. S. Forest Service and the Pickering Lumber Co. This area is said to contain the largest specimens of sugar pine in existence.

OKLAHOMA: Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge is threatened by plans of the military to expand the adjacent Fort Sill Military Reservation. The Army now holds land along half the southern boundary of the Refuge. Last November it announced plans to purchase an additional 20,000 acres along
(cont. on page 5)

The main objectives of many now appear to be no greater than those of scattering cans, papers and garbage of all descriptions; of shooting .22 rifles indiscriminately at everything in sight; and of destroying the remaining vestiges of an heretofore serene roadside. Fires have raged through the undergrowth. And the only concession to the singular nature of the surroundings on the part of many of these "pilgrims" is a brief melodramatic peering over the cliffs for the pure, maudlin sensation of dizzy height. Any building of five or more stories could well supply the same effect.

Plans for a park—supervised, controlled and safeguarded—if any serious ones still exist, should be speeded up. If none exist, then it would be far better to destroy the road or to return it to its former condition before the grandest chasm in the South and its approaches is irreparably defaced by irresponsible hordes bent at best on the cheap attainment of a phony sensation of fear.

That this situation exists is one more sad indication among many that, despite the efforts of decent, considerate people, there still remains an ignorant, selfish, slovenly minority with no regard for the rights of others and no capacity for the appreciation of anything except its own physical comfort. Until such time as this element of the populace is abolished by education, there should be some way to restrain it by force.

--from Kentucky Happy Hunting Ground, January 1953.

A recent state conservation department magazine opens with an editorial criticism of sportsmen's magazines. Their theme of "Here's how to Shoot more Game, Catch more Fish" is just kidding the sportsman, the editorial says, unless these same magazines do something about producing more game and fish. "With their big circulations", the editorial continues, "they could cut a great deal more ice than small state publications like this".

We agree most heartily that the sporting magazines could be improved from the conservation standpoint. But let's see what the preacher is practicing! Pages 6 & 7 of this "small state publication" (40 large pages, 3 drawings, 3 maps, other art work, printing in 3 colors, circulation 67,000) has an article on the fall movements of deer. This states "a greater knowledge of the movements of - - deer - - would result in a great many more successful hunts" --and goes on to impart that knowledge. Page 8 tells us "About Otter Trapping", giving "Some thoughts and suggestions that may be of help - - to those who would simply like to trap an otter" and others. Page 13 has a map of one county to show where streams have been stocked with fish and gives notes on fishing and hunting conditions in the county. Pages 14-18 are devoted to "Notes on Bears", beginning with the comment that residents of the State are "fortunate in having plenty of black bears in their State, not only to see but to hunt. No finer hunting grounds for this species can be found in the U.S. than the - - regions (see map)". It goes on to tell all about the private lives of bears for the benefit of whom it may concern. Pages 20 & 21 record the states "Biggest and Best" with photos of 10 well-antlered deer heads. Page 25 has a map of a lake with all necessary information for the fisherman. Two other pages are devoted to the story of a hunting dog. Oh, yes, and the painting on the front cover is titled "Hound and Hunter".

We think the commercial magazines have some heavy competition in the "Shoot more Game, Catch more Fish" business.

This state magazine is by no means unique. In fact it is so typical that we decided not to name it. We think it is time for state conservation departments to broaden their programs from the old formula of fish and game with a little forestry and recreation thrown in. There's a lot more to conservation than that. As a matter of fact, many conservation departments know it but they have to heed the direction of political pressure. When conservation-minded people and groups begin to insist on real conservation, they'll find the state conservation departments glad to have them around, and glad to do the things they should be doing, --including saving natural areas!

Natural areas can be safeguarded only in those communities inhabited by a citizenry enlightened in regard to its natural resources. Among youth vandalism is a growing problem because of such factors as too small houses, too small lots, too busy parents, too crowded schools, and too little sense of security. Adults, who do not think of themselves as vandals, delightedly delete nature with bulldozers and dumptrucks because there are so many tempting things to buy if only one can make enough money. Besides, children don't have so much need for woods and fields to play in these days because they can watch television instead! Such is the social and intellectual climate in which we must attempt to preserve natural habitats.

We look to our school teachers for help in promoting understanding of our natural resources. It is largely they who can inspire youngsters to carry on constructive rather than destructive outdoor enterprises after school hours; it is largely their job to mold individuals who will mature into citizens with feelings of responsibility toward our natural resources. We must, however, give the teachers maximum support.

Teachers need, first of all, encouragement in weaving conservation into every course in the curriculum. Local organizations interested in conservation should be cooperating with the school board and PTA. They might offer conservation magazines as prizes for outstanding school work relating to natural resources. They might raise a scholarship to send teachers to natural history workshops or to take college courses in conservation and natural history. The math teacher using population figures for problems, the geography teacher drawing on local land use, the English teacher basing theme work on natural history, the music teacher utilizing bird song records, the manual training teacher relating wood grain to growing trees, --all these need a boost from somebody in the community.

Teachers need, secondly, outdoor schoolrooms into which to transplant ideas of conservation which germinate in the classroom. The school yard is of primary importance; much can be taught there. However, an occasional trip should be made to natural areas, for many obvious reasons.

Thirdly, teachers can profit from such books as The Outdoor Schoolroom for Outdoor Living, by William Gould Vinal, Vinehall, R.F.D. Cohasset, Massachusetts. \$1.00 prepaid. Its 69 pages include philosophy and facts of nature education which must be promoted if we are to reduce vandalism among immature people of all ages so that we can maintain natural areas as living museums.

II. Trustees of Public Reservations

Far-sighted men in the older eastern seaboard cities faced up to conservation problems half a century ahead of many other parts of the country. In 1891 the Massachusetts General Court passed an act establishing The Trustees of Public Reservations, a group of men and their successors to "... acquire, maintain, and open to the public beautiful and historic places, under suitable regulations, in Massachusetts".

Through The Trustees' efforts, 45 reservations have come to serve the public for both education and recreation. 26 areas are now owned and maintained; the balance have been turned over to other agencies, especially the State of Massachusetts.

Of particular interest to the Nature Conservancy are such questions as: How were these areas selected? How procured? How managed? These must be considered with the Trustees' purposes clearly in mind; and the Trustees statement of general policies of management proves helpful:

"To welcome the public on the Reservations, which are set aside for the enjoyment of natural beauty and the edification provided by historic places; they are not preserved as amusement parks.

"To preserve The Trustees' lands in pristine condition.

"To cherish handsome trees, native wild flowers, and shrubs.

"To protect birds and wildlife.

"To keep vistas open and excess scrub cut down.

"To keep to a minimum all roads, paths, parking areas, picnic grounds, service buildings, etc., and where they are required to have them simple and inconspicuous.

"To preserve historical landmarks."

In selecting areas, The Trustees have always posed themselves the question, "Is this area "...worthy of preservation for the enjoyment of the public"? Because the public's enjoyment includes such a variety of pleasures, The Trustees have catered to that portion of the populace whose joy is often curtailed by juke boxes and roller-coasters. "A handful of sensitive, knowing persons mean more to us than all the restless thousands at Revere Beach." While reservations are open to the public for swimming, riding, hiking, and skiing, the management of areas and so far as possible of visitors is such that people are recreated primarily by the natural environment rather than by commercialized, man-made stimulants. Sites of particular natural beauty have been sought out; they are not always the beach with the widest sweep or the mountain with the grandest view, but sometimes bits of natural landscape with a special appeal to the sensitive: a knoll with old pines and

hemlocks, or a spot where an otherwise lazy river rushes through a ridge of rock.

The story of the procurement of reservations cannot be found complete in the Annual Reports, though bits of the plot emerge from brief and wistful expressions of the desire to procure a newly-reported area and to raise more money. Equally brief statements proclaim the triumphs, --which have been many.

The actual management of each reservation is in the hands of a local committee. Major decisions are passed by a standing committee of The Trustees. "Improvement" and "development" are for the most part shunned although some changes are necessary to make the areas useful to the public. Here The Trustees are facing some knotty problems. It is one thing to decide "to preserve The Trustees' lands in pristine condition" but quite another "to keep vistas open and excess scrub growth cut down", as stated in the "General Policies".

There are no simple answers to The Trustees' problems of management within their stated policies. In our changing landscape they laudibly try to preserve natural beauty. In many cases, however, the problems are comparable to those of a beautiful woman approaching middle age, who has the choice of growing old gracefully and naturally or of resorting to increased superficial smearings of cosmetics to maintain a facade of beauty on her sagging architecture. If beauty is indeed its own excuse for being, either choice may be good, depending upon personal taste. So it is with the maturing patterns of vegetation in Massachusetts as types change in the process of ecological succession. For example, a hurricane opened up the old woods of the Lowell Holly Reservation on Cape Cod, as windstorms for millennia have laid forest monarchs low. Now catbriar is rampant in the clearings. The local committee reported in 1951, "In some ways this is perhaps an advantage inasmuch as it keeps vandals from cutting the trees at Christmas. It would, however, seem too bad to leave the hollies to the mercies of these vines, which in a few years will entirely cover them." The 1949 report noted, "A great deal more pruning of the very ill-shaped hollies should be done each year." And it was further suggested that a forest management plan be devised so that "...the whole area, while still being a reservation, would nevertheless be growing timber that would eventually be sold to help care for the woods".

Thus we see that many problems of management under the existing policies must be determined by the good taste of The Trustees, for it is they who must determine the answer to such questions as what is "excess scrub growth". The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is indeed fortunate that The Trustees have a keen taste for natural beauty to guide them in tackling such enigmas.

the remaining portion of the southern boundary and 18,000 acres directly east of the Refuge. It is reported that unannounced plans call for later purchase of an additional 99,000 acres blanketing the north side of the Refuge. If this expansion takes place, the Refuge will then be bounded on three sides by Army lands, "like a fragile shell lying conspicuously between the jaws of a powerful vice".

PENNSYLVANIA: Cook Forest Park is the subject of controversy as a result of a cutting program being carried on by the Pa. Dept. of Forests and Waters, agency in charge of the Park. The State program is being conducted as a "clean-up" operation and includes the felling of dead and badly defective trees and the salvage of logs for lumber. Recent publicity in western Pennsylvania has aroused opposition to the program among local citizens.

BILLS IN CONGRESS

The following are some of the bills affecting conservation that have been introduced in Congress. They call for your careful attention. Write your Congressman and the chairman of the committee concerned and let them know what you think of these.

H.R. 4023 "The Stockmen's Bill" (D'Ewart, Montana), and identical bill S. 1491, would give western livestock operators more control over grazing privileges on the federal lands. Because many conservation-minded persons feel this bill has dangerous implications, an analysis was prepared by the Emergency Committee on Natural Resources (available on request to the Conservancy). The analysis includes the following information:

The bill would allow permit seekers to offer "leased or occupied" lands as base property whereas under present national for-

est regulations base property must be owned. It would give permittees exclusive grazing privileges on a specific piece of land. The permittee can sell his privilege to a successor of his own choosing, with the public having virtually no voice in the matter. The Sec'y of Agriculture would be kept from decreasing the privilege as to the number of stock, or changing allotment boundaries for any purpose when a privilege passes to a successor. There is nothing to keep individuals from acquiring excessively large privileges. If grazing capacity on an allotment is increased as when the public pays the expense of reseedling or other improvements, the permittee gets the benefits without turning a hand. The Sec'y of Agriculture would be left without adequate authority to administer public lands under his jurisdiction.

You or your organization can send a statement for the hearing, to be held May 20, 21, and 22. Three or more copies should be sent to the Subcommittee on Public Lands, House of Representatives, Washington 25, D.C. Send copies to your Representatives and Senators.

H.R. 4150 (Coon, Ore.) would give 5% of national forest receipts to local counties and towns for the development and operation of picnic grounds and recreation areas within the national forests. Apparently introduced in opposition to the Baker bill (H.R. 1972). (House Agriculture Committee).

S. 77 (Robertson, Va.) and similar bills (H.R. 1592 & H.R. 1850) would prohibit hunting or fishing on military or other federal lands in violation of state game and fish laws. (Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Comm.)

H.R. 4268 (Hope, Kansas) clarifies laws and administrative procedures relating to national forest grazing permits, but does not weaken the authority of the Forest Service. (House Agriculture Comm.) (cont. on back page)

Oak Wilt Is Spreading— So Is Fight Against It

We're gaining in knowledge of oak wilt, the disease that is taking a heavy toll of oak trees. The fight against it is picking up momentum.

Less encouraging is the fact that oak wilt still is spreading. As of 1951, outbreaks had been discovered in 17 states from Minnesota to Pennsylvania, from Arkansas to North Carolina.

A National Oak Wilt Research committee, composed of representatives of lumber-using industries, and aided by a technical advisory committee of scientists, launched a three-year research program on oak wilt in 1951. The disease also is being studied now by eight universities and a number of public agencies.

The research committee has reported that "local" spread of oak wilt (from the roots of one tree to those of another) can be halted by poisoning all oaks within 20 to 40 feet of diseased trees. This

is the distance the disease generally fans out in a year.

Most effective of the poisons tested thus far is sodium arsenite mixed with caustic soda, but unless handled very carefully this preparation may be dangerous to man and animals. Ammate has worked well but more slowly. A formula often used as a brush killer, kerosene with equal parts of 10 per cent 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, appears to be effective when applied to the bases of tree trunks during the two-week period when they are beginning to leaf out, but summer applications have not given good results.

Another way to stop the local spread of oak wilt is to cut the roots between diseased and healthy trees. This can be done by hand trenching, with a mechanical ditchdigger, or by using a specially-made tractor-drawn blade that cuts roots to a depth of 36 inches.

NO MEANS is known to stop the long-distance spread of oak wilt, which may

carry it for miles in one jump. The theory is that certain birds and insects carry the disease spores, although no one has proved it thus far. Fortunately, the long-distance leaps of oak wilt are much less frequent than those of Dutch elm disease and chestnut blight.

Various states have found airplane surveys effective and economical in locating possible wilt areas. In follow-up work on the ground, the disease now can be positively identified—just as accurately as a doctor can diagnose diphtheria.

Studies on the nature of oak wilt have shown that in an infected tree the disease fungus moves with the water-conducting stream. About the time wilt symptoms appear, the water vessels are found to be plugged. Thus it appears that the trees wilt and die because their water supply is cut off.

--from Wisconsin Conservation Bulletin, Sept. 1952.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

1840 MINTWOOD PLACE, N. W.

WASHINGTON 9, D. C.

FORM 3547 REQUESTED

The Nature Conservancy is an independent member-governed organization dedicated to saving America's heritage of wild nature. Its specific object is to preserve natural areas as "living museums" of the primeval wilderness. Such tracts are precious for their scientific, educational, and esthetic values. They also afford a home for the multitude of kinds of living things that would otherwise vanish from the earth, destroyed by our civilization.

The work of our organization began in 1917 under the direction of a committee of the Ecological Society of America. In 1946 the Ecologists Union was formed to take over these tasks. In 1950 its name was changed to the Nature Conservancy.

We, the members of the Nature Conservancy, invite you to join with us in this work. Membership is open to both individuals and organizations. Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.

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LEGISLATION (cont.): Water Control and Mining

H.R. 559 (Poage, Tex.) provides federal assistance to small watershed associations or districts in a program of soil conservation and head-water dams for flood prevention. This bill would place flood-control emphasis on the uplands and headwaters rather than starting with huge dams on the main streams. (House Agriculture Committee).

S. 134 (Langer, N.D.) and similar bills (S. 139, H.R. 100, H.R. 3774) would permit former owners to apply for, and repurchase, the mineral interests in lands acquired by the Federal government under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. The price would be 25% of the amount paid by the U.S. in the original acquisition.

S. 82 (Cordon of Oregon) would make lands acquired by the U.S., with certain exceptions, open to exploration, entry, and disposition under the mineral-land laws. Lands excepted are those acquired for mineral development, those acquired by foreclosure for resale, military reservation, acquired tidelands, or lands situated within incorporated cities, towns, or villages, or in national parks and monuments.

S. 807 (Hunt of Wyo.) would give the states ownership of mineral rights on the public domain lands of the West, except national forests. (Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee).

H.R. 3915 (Engle, Calif.) would permit mining claims and patents under the mining laws on public lands withdrawn and/or reserved for power development. This would permit dredging in virtually all of the streams of the West. A high percentage of the power-site lands are in the national forests. Passed by the House on Apr. 20. May come up for action soon. (Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee).

S. 738 (Anderson, N.M.) would separate surface values from mineral rights in the operation of mining claims in the national forests. This would help correct abuses of the forests under the mining laws. (Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee).

H.R. 334 (Regan, Texas) to give the Forest Service authority to dispose of deposits of sand, stone, gravel, pumice, and cinders in the national forests by competitive bidding. This would take such materials from under the mining laws and would remedy part of the problem of false mining claims in the forests. (House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee).